

NEWS BRIEFS

AMRICD Poster Takes Top Honors

Best poster honors in the In Vitro Toxicology Session of 2002's Society of Toxicology (SOT) national meeting in Nashville, TN, went to Dr. James Dillman III and his co-authors Kriston McGary, James Clark, Catherine Braue, and Dr. John Schlager. The winners are all employed in the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense's (AMRICD's) Applied Pharmacology Branch, and the poster, "Upregulation of Cytokine Release by Sulfur Mustard Exposure is Mediated by the p38 MAP Kinase Signaling Pathways," was one of more than 30 presented during the session. Dillman accepted the award on March 18, the opening day of the SOT meeting.

Since 1999, Dillman has worked at AMRICD as a National Research Council Research Fellow under the mentorship of Schlager. Dillman has focused his research efforts on proteomics to define the molecular and cellular consequences of chemical warfare agent exposure to identify potential prophylactic and therapeutic targets for further research and development.

According to AMRICD Commander COL James A. Romano, "Dr. Dillman is an expert practitioner of proteomics, the study of protein properties to obtain an integrated view of disease and injury processes. His award, given by the Society of Toxicology, validates the scientific worthiness of his approach. Ultimately, these technologies will enable us to better identify molecular targets for development of chemical warfare agent countermeasures. We are very proud of Dr. Dillman's accomplishments."

Dillman received his B.S. in biology from Lebanon Valley College of Pennsylvania and his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia where he studied molecular motors in the nervous system. Before joining AMRICD, he held a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Neurology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine where he studied the molecular pathogenesis of stroke and neuronal degeneration. He has authored or coauthored more than 30 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and abstracts.

ACQUISITION EXCELLENCE

Army Contracting Metrics Show Continued Progress

The FY01 *Procurement Statistical Reports and Summary of Procurement Actions* have been published, and the Army has completed its annual progress reports. The results will be posted on the Web at

<http://acqnet.saalt.army.mil/acqref/armetric.htm>.

By examining historical data, conducting ratio analyses, and assessing the overall trends, the Army can reach important conclusions about the health of its contracting mission and the impact of Army acquisition reform. One key meas-

urement tool in use since 1995 is the cost-to-purchase metric. This metric provides the cost expended (in cents) to purchase one dollar's worth of supplies or services. During the analysis period from FY95 through FY01, the cost-to-purchase metric decreased from 1.42 cents in FY95 to 1.09 cents in FY01, a decrease of 23 percent.

The average annual obligation per person increased from \$3.3 million in FY95 to \$7.5 million in FY01, an increase of 227 percent. This metric, the average dollar awarded per person per year, indicates that the average Army contracting professional has become significantly more productive in terms of total output. This productivity increase is attributed to a variety of factors including significant personnel reductions, process improvements, and acquisition reform initiatives.

A third metric that increased dramatically was the average obligation per contracting action. This metric rose from \$14,400 in FY95 to \$109,418 in FY01, an increase of more than 760 percent. This increase reflects the use of government purchase cards for micropurchase needs, as well as the continuing emphasis on consolidating contract requirements where possible and useful.

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PERSONNEL

O'Connor Takes Over As COE R&D Director

Dr. Michael J. O'Connor, former Director of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center's (ERDC's) Geotechnical and Structures Laboratory, Vicksburg, MS, has assumed new duties as the Director of Research and Development, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He succeeds Dr. Lewis E. Link Jr., who has retired.

O'Connor's previous positions include Director of ERDC's Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL), Champaign, IL; Technical Director, CERL; and Chief of CERL's Infrastructure Laboratory.

O'Connor is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Army Engineer Association DeFleury Medal (Silver Order) and the 2000 Equal Employment Opportunity Award. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in industrial engineering and a doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The author of more than 30 technical papers and reports, O'Connor is a member of the Tau Beta Pi National Engineering Honor Society and the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. In addition, he is a member of the Construction Research Council and the Awards Committee of the Construction Division of the American Society of Civil Engineers.